IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
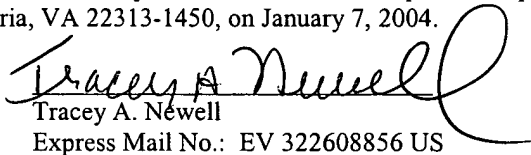
Applicant: Kenneth W. Cowan, et al.   :
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Serial No.:   Not yet assigned   : Examiner: Not yet assigned
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CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I hereby certify that the foregoing document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, postage prepaid, "Post Office to Addressee", in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 7, 2004.

Tracey A. Newell
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page **3** of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page **4** of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page **22** of this paper.

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It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required for consideration of this paper (including fees for net addition of claims) are authorized to be charged in two originally-executed copies of an Amendment Transmittal Letter filed herewith.